



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
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January 18, 2008

BIRD/POULTRY HEALTH ADVISORY
Strain is NOT threat to public health

Please be advised that the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) recently made a presumptive identification of low pathogenic avian influenza, H5N2, within a domestic poultry flock in Essex County.

This strain is NOT a human public health threat.

This is an animal/poultry health issue rather than a public health issue. However, if members of the public who have concerns of human illness should contact your health care provider and also report the illnesses to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at their 24-hour number 617-983-6800.

Low pathogenic avian influenza is usually associated with mild disease in poultry and it is not uncommon in the United States. Due to the fact that this is still a contagious disease, it is important to recognize it and take precautions to prevent it. The DAR has quarantined the affected North Shore flock to prevent spread of the virus to other flocks.

As a precaution, the DAR is inspecting and testing birds in flocks that have been identified as either having contact with the identified flock or as being within the surveillance zone surrounding the identified flock. Flock owners should report any sickness within their flocks immediately by calling DAR at 617-626-1795.

Questions from the public may be directed to the DAR , Animal Health Bureau at 617-626-1786.

For Media Inquiries, please contact:

(Animal Health issues)

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(Human Health issues)

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